

TABLE 3.—Principal Causes of Death in Cuba, 1975\*

Condition	Rate (per 100,000)
Heart disease .....	148.3
Cancer .....	98.2
Cardiovascular accident .....	50.5
Influenza, pneumonia .....	40.5
Accidents .....	32.7

\*From Ministry of Health of Cuba.<sup>10</sup>

1973 (from 2.1 deaths per 1,000 to 1.2).<sup>8</sup> Table 2 illustrates the five leading causes of death in children in Cuba in 1973 and Table 3 lists the principal causes of death throughout the population in Cuba in 1975.

### Conclusion

The statistics in Tables 1 through 3 point out the remarkable progress made by the Cuban health system during the past 20 years. This progress is all the more remarkable when one considers the past loss of large numbers of health professionals, and the continuing economic embargo by the United States that contributes to shortages of medicine and technology. The guid-

ing philosophy of the Cuban government and most health professionals, which has been the driving force behind these gains, is best stated by Milton Roemer:

The rationality of the entire Cuban approach, in accordance with the needs of the people rather than the personal convenience or wishes of the health professions, is its most important characteristics."<sup>9</sup>(p<sup>17</sup>)

Yet, statistics also point out what Cuban physicians and other health workers readily admit, that there is much left to be done.

### REFERENCES

1. Navarro V: Health services in Cuba—An initial appraisal. *N Engl J Med* 287:954-959, Nov 9, 1972
2. John R, Kimmelman D, Haas J, et al: Public health care in Cuba. *Social Policy* 1:41-46, 1971
3. Roemer MI: Cuban Health Services and Resources. Washington, DC, Pan American Health Organization, 1976
4. Navarro V: Health, health services and health planning in Cuba. *Int J Health Serv* 2:397-432, 1972
5. Butler W: The undergraduate education of physicians in Cuba. *J Med Educ* 48:846-858, Sep 1973
6. Kaiser IH: Obstetrics in Cuba, 1974. *Obstet Gynecol* 49:709-714, Jun 1977
7. World Health Statistics Annual, 1977. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1977
8. Corteguera RR, Garcia HF, Lazo RV: Advances in pediatrics and child care in Cuba, 1959-1974. *Bull Pan Am Health Organ* 10:9-24, 1976
9. Report of the Director, Quadrennial, 1974-1977. Washington, DC, Pan American Health Organization, 1978
10. Salud Publica, Cuba 1976. Havana, Ministry of Health of Cuba, 1978

## Salvaging a Severed Member?

WHAT MUST YOU TELL any lay organization that you have opportunity to talk to about helping to salvage a severed part of the body? You remove whatever gross dirt there is. You then place that amputated part in a plastic bag, squeeze the air out, seal it with a rubber band, and place the plastic bag in a chest that you've put ice cubes in (preferably with a little bit of water with the ice cubes). Then you have probably bought hours of time because that part now has the metabolic rate lowered and you can replant it at a much later date.

—HAROLD E. KLEINERT, MD, Louisville, Kentucky

Extracted from *Audio-Digest Orthopaedics*, Vol. 2, No. 10, in the Audio-Digest Foundation's subscription series of tape-recorded programs. For subscription information: 1577 East Chevy Chase Drive, Glendale, CA 91206.